

The upper jaw, when cut away at the side (as shown in fig. 1, p. 246), exhibits a very rudimentary canine tooth of the adult series, and three molars, the middle being the flesh-tooth of the milk-series.

The lower jaw shows three molars of the milk-series in a moderate state of development, and a cavity in which the large hinder molar is to be developed, but which is now in a very rudimentary state.

The first tooth indicated on the edge of the jaw is the permanent canine, and the two other teeth are the anterior molars.

I am not aware that the skull of the young animal of this genus has been figured; so I have had some drawings, to illustrate this paper, made by Mr. Ford.

9. On a Variety of the *Canis vulpes* (*Vulpes vulgaris*, Brisson)
found in the Forest of the Ardennes, Belgium. By Dr.
EDWARD HAMILTON, F.L.S.

The Prince of Musignano, in his 'Fauna Italica,' describes a variety of the *Canis vulpes* under the name of *melanogaster*, and claims specific characters, in that the colour of the fur on the throat, chest, and abdomen is black instead of whitish grey; the head and back dark greyish, and mixed with a quantity of silver hairs; the tail more bushy, and furnished with a white tip. Mr. Gerrard, in his 'Catalogue of Bones in the British Museum,' places the *Vulpes melanogaster* as a distinct species. Dr. Gray, "Catalogue of the Canidæ" (P. Z. S. 1868, p. 515), describes it as a variety only; *Hab.* Italy. Linnæus describes a variety, *Canis alopes*, with a straight tail black at the tip, and smaller than the *Canis vulpes*. Buffon's *Renard charbonnier*, or *Alopes europæus*, is of a silver greyish colour, tail tipped with white; remarkable black feet and legs, which appear as if produced by charcoal-dust, hence its name; it is smaller than the common Fox. *Hab.* Burgundy.

The variety which I bring before the notice of the Society was shot last autumn in the Forest of the Ardennes, near Rochefort, in Belgium. The hunters there know it under the name of "Le Renard Noir." It is comparatively rare; about five or six are killed during the season. It is larger than the Common Fox, and a very active animal. Colour brownish grey, mixed with silver-grey hairs; deep brownish red stripe extending down the back, lighter towards the tail; head, face, and neck brownish red, mixed with silver-grey; throat, chest, and abdomen black, merging into blackish grey at the posterior part; tail blackish brown on the upper part, blackish yellow beneath, the tip black; fore legs blackish grey from shoulder to claws; hind legs, a blackish grey stripe running from the hip and becoming black at the feet.

The skin measures from tip of nose to root of tail 3 feet; tail 1 foot 6 inches. Approximate height at shoulders 1 foot 5-6 inches.

In comparing the skin with the figure given by the Prince of Musignano (*l. c.*) there is a great similarity, with the exception of

the white tip to the tail and the size, the Ardennes variety being a much larger and stronger animal. Nilsson describes a variety very like the *Vulpes melanogaster* as inhabiting Scandinavia.

10. Notes on the Friendship existing between the Malacopterygian Fish *Premnas biaculeatus* and the *Actinia crassicornis*. By Lieut. C. C. DE CRESPIGNY*.

The Anemone here spoken of is found at Labuan in various habitats—sometimes domiciled in rows along the horizontal fissures of sandstone rocks (the positions being chosen so that at low water they may be just awash), in other cases surrounding and covering a mass of exposed dead madreporæ. It is also found attached to rocks or dead coral some inches under the surface of the sand, and from this vantage ground protruding or withdrawing its tentacula at pleasure, so that when they are withdrawn the animal is no longer visible. On a calm evening, when the tide is out, one may observe with advantage the sympathy which appears to exist between this animal and the little fish called *Premnas biaculeatus*. The *Actinia* is in a state of quiescence, allowing its tentacula to float and move about freely in obedience to the impulse of each ripple of the water, they being now supple, pointed at the extremities, and gravitating downwards. A *Premnas* now passes over the Anemone, and immediately the tentacula become erect and diverge as if galvanized, while their extremities become clubby and phosphorescent.

The fish hovers over it, gently rubbing the tentacula with his pectoral fins, and so will remain for some time. The hand-net is passed quietly down under the Anemone, and the alarmed fish, instead of swimming away, dives into the body of its friend, the tentacles closing over it and thus burying it in a living tomb. The hand of the captor now disturbs the fish in its hidden retreat, and upon its again rushing forth from its hiding-place the net is drawn to the surface of the water and the little fellow captured. The natural colour of this fish is pale red, having three perpendicular white stripes on the body. Upon its attaining full growth, however, when it is from four to five inches long, it becomes almost black, and the stripes are very nearly obliterated. In captivity I have known an Anemone live in perfect harmony with a *Premnas* for nearly a year. One morning the fish was found dead outside its tub, from which it had leapt in the night; the Anemone sickened, became elongated and flaccid, and died in a few days.

On the other hand, I have known a fish live in a tub for a long time without the society of its complementary Anemone.

It may be that the fish spawns upon the Anemone, or that by continually rubbing its fins against the extremities of the tentacles it rids itself and its friend of disagreeable parasites, or that it causes a continuous flow of water across the body of its friend, in which stream are conveyed the animalcula on which it lives.

* Communicated by E. Higgins, Esq., F.Z.S.